

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 09196 301537Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-04 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4055

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR EUR/CE - BRUCE FLATIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KREISKY, BRUNO), AU, EFIN, IMF,
ETRD

SUBJECT: IMF TRADE DECLARATION

REF: STATE 229673

1. AFTER RECEIPT REFTTEL, ECONCOUNS IN BRIEF CONVER-
SATION WITH SEKTIONSCHEF NEUDOERFER OF FINANCE MINISTRY
EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT AUSTRIA HAD NOT YET SUBSCRIBED
TO SUBJECT DECLARATION. NEUDOERFER CITED CONSTITUTIONAL
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 09196 301537Z

DIFFICULTIES FOR GOA FAILURE SO FAR TO SUBSCRIBE TO

DECLARATION AND WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THESE DIFFICULTIES COULD BE SURMOUNTED. EMBASSY URGED THAT GOA MOVE POSITIVELY IN THIS MATTER.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH ECONCOUNS, OCTOBER 25, NEUDOERFER INFORMED US THAT FOREIGN OFFICE LEGAL DIVISION HAD NOW DETERMINED THAT GOA COULD SUBSCRIBE TO PLEDGE IN QUOTE CONTEXT OF AUSTRIAN CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK UNQUOTE AND THAT HE ANTICIPATES MINISTERIALRAT (COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) WOULD APPROVE GOA ADHERENCE TO DECLARATION VERY SOON. ECONCOUNS THANKED NEUDOERFER FOR HIS SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER, COMMENTING THAT DECLARATION WOULD BE USEFUL IN PRESENT SITUATION WHERE THERE ARE MANY PRESSURES FOR COUNTRIES TO TAKE CURRENT ACCOUNT MEASURES FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENT PURPOSES. NEUDOERFER REPLIED THAT WHILE HE AGREED WITH FOREGOING, HE ANTICIPATED THAT MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRIA, WOULD NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES FULLY BOUND BY DECLARATION, ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS OF TRADE ACTIONS NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. AS EXAMPLE, HE CITED CURRENT AUSTRIAN TRADE SITUATION WITH ITALY AND OBSERVED THAT IF ITALIANS CONTINUED TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES FOR AUSTRIAN EXPORTS, ESPECIALLY BEEF, QUOTE WE WILL MAKE DIFFICULTIES FOR ITALIAN WINE AND FRUIT IMPORTS INTO AUSTRIA. UNQUOTE

3. COMMENT: NEUDOERFER IS FREQUENTLY SKEPTICAL IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS MULTILATERAL DECLARATIONS OR DECISIONS, BUT WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, HE WILL LEND HIS OWN CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN SUPPORT OF SUCH ENDEAVORS. PRESENT SITUATION IS CASE IN POINT, SICHE FINANCE MINISTRY EVIDENTLY HAD TO OVERCOME LEGAL OBSTACLES RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. GOA CLEARLY IS IN FAVOR OF THE SPIRIT OF THE DECLARATION, AND W ANTICIPATE THAT THEY WILL SUBSCRIBE TO IT IN DUE COURSE.

4. DEPT., NEVERTHELESS, MAY WISH TO REITERATE USG INTEREST IN DECLARATION WITH FINANCE MINISTER ANDROSCH WHO WILL ACCOMPANY CHANCELLOR DREISKY IN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 12. HUMES

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